

**REMARKS**

In light of the following remarks and above amendments, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Claims 11-17 have been canceled herein. Claims 2-4, and amended claims 1 and 5-10 are in this application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 5-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bouve (U.S. Patent No. 5,682,525) in view of Numagami (U.S. Patent No. 5,155,774).

Amended independent claim 1, recites in part,

“means for determining a limited portion of the remote data base based on the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus and for searching the limited portion of the remote data base to acquire image information corresponding to a number of images based on the obtained image from the imaging means.”

(Underlining and Bold added for emphasis.)

It is respectfully submitted that the applied combination of Bouve and Numagami does not teach the above-recited features of amended independent claim 1. Therefore amended

independent claim 1 is believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Bouve and Numagami.

For reasons similar to or somewhat similar to those described above with regard to amended independent claim 1, amended independent claims 5-10 are also believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Bouve and Numagami.

Further, claims 2 and 3 depend from amended independent claim 1 and, due to such dependency, are also believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Bouve and Numagami for at least the reasons previously described.

Applicants therefore respectfully request the rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bouve and Numagami as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Hudetz (U.S. Patent No. 5,978,773).

Claim 4 depends from amended independent claim 1 and, due to such dependency, is also believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Bouve and Numagami for at least the reasons previously described. The Examiner does not appear to rely on Hudetz to overcome the above-identified deficiencies of Bouve and Numagami. Therefore, claim 4 is believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Bouve, Numagami and Hudetz.

Applicants therefore respectfully request the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 11-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bouve in view of Numagami as applied to claims 1 and 5-10, and further in view of Leone (U.S. Patent No. 5,745,360).

Claims 11-17 have been canceled herein.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the claims in this amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

In the event, that the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where, in the reference or references, there is the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable over the prior art, and early and favorable consideration thereof is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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**"VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."**

1. (Three Times Amended) An information retrieval apparatus for retrieving information from a remote data base, said remote data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising: location detection means for detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

imaging means for obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus; and

[selection] means for determining a limited portion of the remote data base based on the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus and for searching the limited portion of the remote data base to acquire [for selecting from said remote database a plurality of] image information corresponding to a number of images based on the obtained image from the imaging means [defined, in accordance with said corresponding location data, as being located within a predefined proximity to the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

imaging means for obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus; and

comparison means for comparing said obtained image to said image information of said plurality of image information corresponding to said selected images].

5. (Three Times Amended) An information retrieval method for retrieving information by an information retrieval apparatus from a remote data base, said remote data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising the steps of:

detecting the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;  
obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus; and

determining a limited portion of the remote data base based on the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus and searching the limited portion of the remote data base to acquire [selecting from said remote database a plurality of] image information corresponding to a number of images based on the obtained image [defined, in accordance with said corresponding location data, as being located within a predefined proximity to the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus; and

comparing said obtained image to said image information of said plurality of image information corresponding to said selected images].

6. (New) An information retrieval apparatus for retrieving information from a remote data base, said remote data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising:

location detection means for detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

imaging means for obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

transmitting means for transmitting said detected current position location to the remote data base;

[selection] means for determining a limited portion of the remote data base based on the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus and for searching the limited portion of the remote data base to acquire [for selecting from said remote database a plurality of] image information corresponding to a number of images based on the obtained image from the imaging means [defined, in accordance with said corresponding location data, as being located within a predefined proximity to the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

imaging means for obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

comparison means for comparing said obtained image to said image information of said plurality of image information corresponding to said selected images to determine a matching image;]

first receiving means for receiving designation information [corresponding to said matching image] for retrieving additional information corresponding to said obtained image;

checking means for checking whether user's manual operation is needed to acquire said additional information corresponding to said designation information;

second receiving means for receiving additional information based on the designation information; and

displaying means for displaying said additional information.

7. (New) An information retrieval apparatus for retrieving information from a remote data base, said remote data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising:

location detection means for detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

imaging means for obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

transmitting means for transmitting said detected current position location to the remote data base;

[selection] means for determining a limited portion of the remote data base based on the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus and for searching the limited portion of the remote data base to acquire [for selecting from said remote database a plurality of] image information corresponding to a number of images based on the obtained image from the imaging means [defined, in accordance with said corresponding location data, as being located within a predefined proximity to the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;]

reception means for receiving said [selected] acquired image information;

[imaging means for obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

comparison means for comparing said obtained image to said image information of said plurality of image information corresponding to said selected image;] and

checking means for checking a match between said received image and said obtained image.

8. (New) An information retrieval apparatus for retrieving information from a remote data base, said remote data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising:

location detection means for detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

imaging means for obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

transmitting means for transmitting said detected current position location to the remote data base;

[selection] means for determining a limited portion of the remote data base based on the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus and for searching the limited portion of the remote data base to acquire [for selecting from said remote database a plurality of] image information corresponding to a number of images based on the obtained image from the imaging means [defined, in accordance with said corresponding location data, as being located within a predefined proximity to the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;]

reception means for receiving said [selected] acquired image information;

[imaging means for obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

comparison means for comparing said obtained image to said image information of said plurality of image information corresponding to said selected images;] and

displaying means for displaying said received image after performing a matching process using said obtained image.

9. (New) An information retrieval method for retrieving information by an information retrieval apparatus from a remote data base, said remote data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising the steps of:

detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;

obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

transmitting said detected current position location to the remote data base;

determining a limited portion of the remote data base based on the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus and for searching the limited portion of the remote data base to acquire [selecting from said remote database a plurality of] image information corresponding to a number of images based on the obtained image from the imaging means [defined, in accordance with said corresponding location data, as being located within a predefined proximity to the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;]

receiving said [selected] acquired image information;

[obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;

comparing said obtained image to said image information of said plurality of image information corresponding to said selected images;] and

checking means for checking a match between said received image and said obtained image.

10. (New) An information retrieval method for retrieving information by an information retrieval apparatus from a remote data base, said remote data base comprising image information for a plurality of images, and at least corresponding location data, comprising the steps of:

- detecting a current position location of said information retrieval apparatus;
- obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;
  - transmitting said detected current position location to the remote data base;
  - determining a limited portion of the remote data base based on the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus and for searching the limited portion of the remote data base to acquire [selecting from said remote database a plurality of] image information corresponding to a number of images based on the obtained image from the imaging means [defined, in accordance with said corresponding location data, as being located within a predefined proximity to the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;]
  - receiving said [selected] acquired image information;
  - [obtaining an image at the current position location of the information retrieval apparatus;
  - comparing said obtained image to said image information of said plurality of image information corresponding to said selected images;] and

displaying a matching image after performance of the comparing step.

Claims 11-17 (Canceled)